

A Disgusting Hypocrisy

On May 13-15, 1998, in Jakarta, Indonesia, an "ethnic cleansing" occurred which resulted in many Chinese Indonesians being abused, tortured, and killed. Their houses and stores were looted and burned. Hundreds of Chinese Indonesian girls/women (aged 10-55) were sexually harassed and brutally gang raped. Some victims were even raped in front of their family members or in front of inhuman cheering crowd. Some of them were even thrown into the fire and burned to death after being raped.

The scariest part about all these is that most of the girls and women were raped by soldiers, whose jobs were to control the chaos. Some were raped by commoners, the rest by demonstrators (most of whom are university students). Most of the victims were raped in front of friends or family. Some were thrown into burning buildings after being raped (these were often witnessed by family and friends). Many committed suicide. The rest of the surviving victims either have fear of public places or all men, did not report the rapes to the authorities, or were admitted into mental institutions.

These kinds of stories are heartbreaking. But this is not the worst of the story. In addition to the brutal violence and godless immorality, is the disgusting hypocrisy shown by the perpetrators. Before each rape, the men said "Allahu Akbar," which is an Islamic phrase in Arabic meaning "God is great." This phrase is used by radical Muslims when committing an act of "jihad."

The whole concept of "jihad" or "holy war" is deeply flawed as far as the Bible is concerned. Christians, perhaps above all religious people, have a respect for figurative language. But the Bible never encourages a Christian to commit these kinds of horrible acts. The New Testament speaks of "fighting" in the Lord's cause (1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-17). But the immediate context tells us how to conduct this fight (1 Timothy 6:11-13). Timothy's "fight" was a spiritual one, not a carnal one.

As you will see, the passages from the Qur'an that are quoted do not speak of a spiritual "fight of faith." They use terms and phrases that make clear reference to physical war, bloodshed, and death. The religion of Islam was founded upon the practice of intimidation, coercion, and terror. Dissenters were not just "avoided," they were massacred. Furthermore, the Qur'an demands the eventual expansion of Islam throughout the world (Surah 2:193; 3:19, 85; 8:65). An Iranian Muslim wrote, "Islam came to reform society and to form a nation and government. Its mandate is the reform of the

whole world. Such a religion cannot be indifferent. It cannot be without a law of jihad.”

Many have said that Muslims are taught to fight only in self-defense. “Jihad” literally means “struggle.” Many Muslims emphasize that jihad is about struggling against evil desires (an internal jihad) and, if necessary, defending one’s homeland and religious heritage (Surah 2:190-192). The jihad is essentially a permanent state of hostility that Islam maintains against the rest of the world.

However, it does not take much to see that the Qur’an advocates fighting against the Jew and the Christian. Muslim radicals believe they are simply exercising their right to “defend Islam” by engaging in an offensive jihad interpreted defensively. Muhammad used the example of “fighting” in Moses’ day to defend the practice in his day, and for future generations (Surah 2:244-246).

The expression, “People of the Book,” is found throughout the Qur’an, and it refers to Jews and Christians. The Qur’an tells Muslims to fight against them (Surah 4:74-76, 84; 9:29-30, 39, 123; 61:4). The primary reason of the animosity toward Jews and Christians is their rejection of Muhammad as the last of the prophets. Furthermore, the Qur’an frequently promises Allah’s reward to those who are slain in battle (Surah 3:157-158, 169-171, 195).

In all fairness, the majority of Muslims do not believe that Islam encourages, or even approves the use of deadly force in the defense and/or spread of Islam. However, no one can successfully deny that Muhammad approved of such. His political and religious power was purchased with the blood of his allies and his adversaries. The Qur’an unequivocally sanctions the use of carnal methods in fighting the opposition. But the Bible disapproves of the use of force in either defending or advancing the Lord’s kingdom (Matthew 26:52; John 18:36; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5). The Bible says vengeance belongs to God and that we are to “*overcome evil with good*” (Romans 12:19-21). This is in stark contrast with what is in the Qur’an.

Can you imagine bringing in the name of God when committing such horrible acts? The law of God says, “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith*” (Galatians 6:10). How can anyone believe that a God who is full of compassion and mercy would approve of such atrocities? Make no mistake, God will judge hypocrites and those who disobey His commands (2 Timothy 3:1-4). There will be no mercy for those who do not show mercy (James 2:13)!

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